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THE
STATE and CASE
OF A
DESIGN

For the Better Education of Thousands of

Parish-Children

Succeffively, in the Vast Western Suburbs of

LONDON,
VINDICATED.

And Humbly Dedicated to all the Honourable and Pious
Persons that have, or may be inclined to be
Favourers and Encouragers of it.





The State and Case of a Design for the Better Education of Thousands of Parish-Children successively, in the vast Western Suburbs of London.

I Have lain now under a long Oppression and Imprisonment, in the pursuit of an End, I am very well assur'd, no One, that carries but the face of Humanity or Christianity, can pretend to impeach, or derogate from, in it self, or upon its own account. It was for the Education of poor Children in Religion and Vertue, and to be Useful in their Stations to Publick Good and Service, and this to extend to several of the most Populous Parishes near *London*, that must needs daily disburthen themselves of very great numbers, whose Youth, having not been cultivated and improved, are exposed in such numbers to all imaginable temptations to Idleness, Vice and Debauchery, if not to such courses as fill Prisons and load Gibbets, with Executions disgraceful to Humane Nature, and particularly dishonourable to the Nation.

Who then can, without manifest injury to the Laws of Christianity and Humanity, pretend any thing against designing to Ends so worthy, as that they are so far from demeriting the Treatment I have found, that even Indiscretion in so excellent an attempt, is rather meritorious of mankind.

And because That is the great Charge against this particular Design and Undertaking, and aggravated against me, even to the imputation of Frenzy and Madness, and, which is yet worse, of Unnaturalness to my Family and nearest Relations; I have therefore, in Justice to my self, and Honour to many

Persons of great Condition and Reputation, who vouchsafed me favour on this account, thought it my Duty to give this open and free Account of that whole Matter, and to compose it into a short History or relation; It shall be so just, and so severely bounded by Truth, that the greatest Enemies of that Undertaking, and of my self for it, shall not find where to fasten accusation of Falshood, or calumniate it as Legendary, or Romantick: and I hope it will appear, when every thing is truly weigh'd, I was neither Frantick, nor so much as in the Transports of Fancy in what I had projected. I cannot be without some hopes, this Relation may some way fall under the notice of His Sacred Majesty, enter his Royal Court, and approach the Observation of our Gracious Queen, and of Her Royal Highness the Princess *Ann of Denmark*, whose Charity gives her a Name greater than that of a Princess: And that the Design being a Design of publick Good, and mercy to Souls and Bodies, it will have a certain Reception with the Most Reverend Fathers in God, the Arch-Bishops, and the Right Reverend the Bishops, and the Reverend Clergy about this City, both Dignitaries and others, with the Nobility and Gentry, and most particularly with those Honourable Personages, who by their Promises of Assistance and Contribution, as also by their Encouragement and Approbation, made Reasonable, what might otherwise be justly censur'd as most unreasonable in me, and chargeable with the fault of the foolish Builder in the Gospel.

But yet farther, I promise my self a most favourable and compassionate Reception of this Representation with those Parishes and the most Worthy Divines, their Pastors, to the Service of which I more particularly levell'd my Design.

This short Relation then, to which I give the name of a Brief History, I shall distribute into these five Heads.

1. To give a true Account of my Self and Family when I first made this Attempt, and to vindicate my self from those Imputations that make such an Attempt seem Folly and Madness, or unnatural to my nearest Relations.

2. I will most humbly present the Assurances and Encouragements I had from others, that may redeem me and this Undertaking from those Imputations.

3. I will render the Steps that I took in this Matter as plain and orderly as may be, as a justification of the hopes of it as I had laid it.

4. I will freely, yet modestly and inoffensively Remonstrate those adverse Contrivances and Injuries, that have so far ruin'd this Undertaking, that was laid with Caution and Prudence, and then reproach'd it as senseless and mad ; and the same Methods and Measures were taken against my self, by imprisoning, and Bankrupting me, and then voguing me Crack-brain'd and Frensic.

5. I shall take the boldness to lay before the Publick Charity and Mercy, the possible and hopeful Measures that may be taken to rescue this so baffled and disgrac'd Undertaking, that it may turn to account of so great a Good as I intended it.

Upon all which, I make no doubt I shall be allow'd to make my Petition for general Assistance, and shall be accepted in it.

I begin with the state it had pleas'd the Providence of God to bless me into, when this Design came first into my Eye. It was indeed far from being so great, as to sustain an Undertaking so weighty as Founding an Hospital, nor was it so mean and contemptible, as that I should be wholly incapacitate to be a most humble Petitioner of the Charity of Many, and Noble Persons, of ample Fortunes, and greater Minds, to so great a Work.

I could then without any immodesty, value my Estate at about six thousand Pounds, and a flowing course of Trade, (I speak it with lowliest acknowledgment of the Divine goodness to me) and as clear and current a Reputation, as most Tradesmen of my standard and size in the City ; so that I was in some degree able to endure the making an Essay, or Experiment of the Beneficence of a City of so vaste a Confluence, and such a Staple Trade, of such a Clergy, Nobility, Gentry, as the World it self cannot boast any of greater Splendour, Opulency, or Christian

stian Generosity, and so Royal a Court at the head of all. The Magnificence of which I am very well assured, had appeared in this very Experiment by this time, had it not been by most deliberate and cunningly design'd Opposition, crush'd in the birth.

Nor indeed were my first Endeavours guilty of any Ambition, or extravagancy of aspiring; for my Projectings of so publick a Good, began upon this low and humble occasion, and though it hath pleased the Infinite Wisdom and Goodness not to bless them as yet with that success, yet it is an Apology for me, that many of the greatest things in the World have sprung up from very small and despicable Originals.

I was by the Providence of God, that sets to all men the bounds of their Habitation, equally as their times of abode, cast upon the side of *High gate Hill*, where all this City of so great Grandeur lies under view: It was for a Summers recess, for the freedom of better Air, as other Citizens of no greater rank than my own seek for themselves and Families. In the House that fell to my lot, there was an outward Building, that had been used for a meaner purpose, for which having no such occasion, I readily observed it as a Room that might serve a better purpose, and to a Woman that imploy'd her self to teach Children, wanting such a conveniency, I very freely allow'd it, out of the natural inclination I had for the Education of Youth in any virtuous beginning, (a thing of great estimation always with the wisest and best men) and very gladly accommodated it to so good a purpose, being so far from that salvage Humour of turning Places set apart for any better uses to be the Receptacle of Brutes, that with greater pleasure I redeem'd that which had been for baser offices to a civill Reception, and to a Service, though comparatively mean, yet such as layes the foundation of all Virtue, Ingenuity and Literature, both Moral and Religious, *viz.* the first knowledge of Letters.

The satisfaction I found herein was so great, that it was a very difficult piece of Continency, within my own bounds, having that great City still in my Eye, which I knew every year swarmed with an un-nurtur'd new Generation of Mankind, not to desire

desire to advance to something of an higher Effort in that kind. Apprehensions of the sore unhappiness of humane nature, thro' the want of wholsom Institution of Child-hood crowded in upon me. These apprehensions broke out into passionate wishes, I could do any thing to redress it, and rescue, how small a Portion soever from a Barbarity, that grows up with so many, the Poverty or Negligence of whose Parents so exposes them, even in a Christian City.

I proceed therefore so much farther, as to adorn that which only deserv'd the name of a Room into some of the Formality of a School-house, and raised the Character of a School-mistress to that of a School-master, though indeed but of the lowest Class ; a Master of Reading and Writing.

And at my own charge took in Children, first about twenty, then their number increased to near forty, and both their Dyet, Clothing, and Teaching, lay upon me for about two years and a half ; These were Receiv'd from the Neighbour Parts to *Highgate*.

And at this Juncture, the Care of my Family, from my own intimate affection to them, and their sensibleness of the incommensurable such a Charge upon me might bring on them, (I confess not without reason) began to encounter my design.

To allow then the just Consideration to each was my great Concern at that time, and to make a suitable composure and agreement between them was my principal care. On one side, I could not be either stupidly unsensible my self, much less unnaturally deaf to the appeals of my nearest Relations, to both my Love and Justice to them ; on the other side, the zeal of such a publick Good as I had conceiv'd in my Thoughts, made me wholly unwilling to let my design sink ; I knew my self in a Condition to support it some time by my own strength, though not long, but it must crush me with its weight, and fall it self so upon me as to bury me in its Ruine ; I knew I could not do it any time without such an Injury to my self and Family, as I had no thought to suffer for my own or their sake.

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At this strait, between these two so valuable Interests, I resolv'd to make application to the Charity of Persons, of both Nobility, splendid Fortunes and Piety, as also to the Learned and Religious of both the long Robes, and of especial Dignity therein.

And then I began to model my design, out of a private into a publick Charity, that should have a publick Name, be a publick Honour, and born up by a publick Assistance and Contribution, and particularly I now began to call it an Hospital, by the Consignation of all I did to those most populous Parishes, *viz.* *St. Martins* in the Fields, *St. Giles* in the Fields, *St. Clement-Danes*, *St. Paul-Covent-Garden*, *St. Mary-Savoy*, and part of *St. Andrews Holborn*, and what success I had therein, is the proper Subject of my second Head in this Relation.

I shall only add, that as Persons undertaking a dangerous Voyage by Sea, or entring upon any hazardous adventure of Employment, first give their Affairs the best settlement they are able, and in Scripture-Phrase, set their Houses in order; so knowing the necessities of Mankind are like the Ocean, or boundless Waters, upon which *Solomon* yet advises us under that elegancy of Expression to cast our Bread, I look'd upon it as lanching my self into the Deep, an adventure full of toil, hazard, and uncertainty of Success, but of great Returns, if prosperous. I therefore made such a dispose of my Estate, and adjusted to every Relation, their apportion in what I had, and it was settled to their satisfaction, free from any Debts and Incumbrances, as I can make appear by particulars, not so convenient here to be recited, especially at this time.

I can therefore thus far submit my self with great assurance, to the Judgment of all unprejudic'd, and not prepossess'd; whether my Deportment in this particular relating to my Family, was, as either of a distracted or unnatural Person: What I did in a way of Charity, (I confess above the sphere of my Condition and Estate) I esteem'd only as Lent; I do not so much mean in *Solomon's* sense unto the Lord, but on the Reputation of the Christianity and Charity of so many great Personages,
and

and more especially of those Parishes I just now named ; so that I write my self no other than the most humble Petitioner, and Servant in so worthy and honourable a Design.

I must now in the second place, present the Encouragements I receiv'd from Noble, Pious, and Charitable Persons of all degrees, which I do with the humblest acknowledgements and thanks to them ; the Recognition of which is a Patronage of what I have done, and redeems me from those Imputations that have been so fatal to my honest and better founded Design, than the general misrepresentation of me and it would have believed.

I know my Enemies were ready to speak to me, and continue still to speak, as the Adversaries of the *Jews* did to them in *Nehemiah's* time ; What will this feeble impotent Person do ? Will he build Castles in the Air ? Will he undertake without counting the Charges, or having wherewith to discharge it, build an Hospital ? What will his Foundations bear, or how will the Walls of his Superstructure rise ? can they be other than so weak, that if a Fox go over them, he will break them down ?


I acknowledge, these, and many such like things were said to me, and of me, and of my Undertaking, by those that had despitefully said, *Raze it even to the foundation*. And they may be justly enough said to me upon my own account.

But when I consider the infinite Goodness and Power of God, that is a Favourer of, and a Friend to all things of Publick Good, being himself the most Publick Benefactor, and hath a more particular Favour for the younger part of Mankind, whose Minds and Manners, yet unsullied with Corruption, and the future hopes of whom hang doubtful on the advantages of their Education, whom he commands to remember him in the days of their Youth, and of whose training up in the way wherein they should go, that they may not depart from it, when they are Old, he hath so carefully admonished the elder World ; of the care of whom he gives us so many assurances in his Word, as such, who have not yet made proof of those

Corruptions of the World, and of whom there are charitable hopes ; they may by a cautious securing them in the arms and hands of Virtue and Religion, be formed to a better State, according to the excellent purposes, for which the Divine Image was set upon their Souls, of whom there are yet hopes, till they have forfeited them, and given evidence to the contrary ; the promis'd Land in its first Possession was reserv'd for such, and denied to their Fathers ; all this care of God over this tender Age, gave me Confidence of a better Issue than the presages of those that had evil will fore-boded.

But because I know God in this Age of the world works by ordinary means, and not by Miracles, I was not so fanatically, or enthusiastically heated, as to look for immediate Assistances, but view'd round about me for the most hopeful Expedients and Methods of Assistance, to a Work I knew much too great for my own grasp, and to unweildy for my small strength.

I therefore apply'd my self to the wisest, most honourable Persons, and of greatest affluence of Condition, who might be not only able to set an Example, but by their substantial Contributions, raise, and promote so good an intent.

And without any vanity or boast, I may truly say I had such  earnest of Success, that had not a dark Meteor rose up from either the Envy, or self Interest of other Persons, (I know not to which to impute it) who were also armed, as the Event speaks, with Subtilty, Power, and Reputation, to undermine my yet tender beginnings, and covered the whole Attempt with a black mist and shade, under which it is yet covered, it had by this time, as a City upon a Hill, rais'd the Enquiry, and attracted the Bounty of even strangers to it ; for the so many Examples that deserv'd Imitation, had without doubt provok'd the Zeal of others in so good a Cause.

How could I think that a Castle in the Air, or so feeble an Undertaking, that had so large and solid a Base, as the Charity of such a Court, such a City, so many honourable Ladies, particularly whose tender and compassionate Natures flow with all Love and Mercy, and whose Piety is ready to direct it into any such

such Channel, as wherein the Glory of God, and good of Mankind may have so strong a Current.

And together with them, I record so many Noble Lords, so many Eminent Divines, Lights to, shall I say, this whole Nation, yea, to the whole Christian World it self; so many grave and worthy Citizens, who having receiv'd abundantly from the immediate Bounty of Heaven, are taught Liberality by so great an Exemplar, as of the Father of Mercies and Bounties, particularly copied upon themselves.

Having now given this general prospect upon a whole City of Benefactors, ready to any substantial project of Charity; I will now place those from whom I had Encouragement in these five Classes.

1. There was some Noble Personages, who not only by their promises of farther Favour, but by their present Liberality, upon the very nail, as they say, assisted me with ready money, and these contributed to the value of near four hundred Pounds. And though I have equal esteem, and am oblig'd to have so to those who assur'd me their future Assistance, whose Word is Obligation sufficient, and far stronger than Bonds, especially to so publick and Sacred a Purpose; yet the general estimation the World hath for what is speedily and immediately done, and for (as it is called) ready Money, makes them of the first Three of these Worthies; as *David's* Worthies had some the Renown to be styled the First Three, without any Postponing those that came after in point of Honour.

2. Those that gave me security of their express promise of their Assistance, as valuable to me as Gold it self, and whose Words I lay up in the most Honourable Remembrance I have, and estimate them, though not yet performed, as men do their best Securities for money out of their hands.

3. Many Personages of great Character and Name in the World, gave me under their Hands their Testimonials of Approbation, and Recommendations to the Charity of others; some with explicate and firm Assurances of their own Contributions, some with only virtual and implied Promises, for such great

Names are not by themselves set to a Blank ; and indeed nothing can be of greater value to me, nor greater justification, and even Vindication of me and this Design, and in that regard more precious than Silver ; For Persons may upon many motives be induced to acts of Bounty and Charity, who have yet no kind resentments of the Goodness and Wisdom of such an Undertaking ; but a judicious and hearty Approbation excels in this regard, as Reason and intellectual things far surmount all things gross and material. And though indeed Money answers all things, as to this material world, yet still Wisdom excels Riches ; and so I own the Charity of so excellent and venerable Judgments, contributing the Suffrages of their Prudence and Virtue, as the highest Obligations ; and I bind them to my Head as a Crown and Diadem, that both grace and secure me from all my accusers.

4. Some most Honoured Persons, that did not in any of the former Instances, although some of them did in all, or several of them joyn themselves to this Undertaking ; yet some who did not in any of them communicate their Favour, yet were pleased to receive from me those Presents of Homage, as Patents, that I held under them my pretensions to so great a Work, as a meanest Tenant at Will, whom Divine Providence by their ample Fortunes had made, under him, the Lords of such Works, and so to be esteem'd among men, though but Stewards to that Paramount Lord.

Now, seeing all such Personages, in imitation of their Great Lord, are above all Obligations, and none give to them, but they are ready to return it, *Full measure, shaken together, pressed down, and running over* ; and therefore I cannot esteem my self richer in any of the Favours I have received, than in those very great ones, of these Acceptations of my poor Presents, (though such as I was able) and what the value of the whole amounted to, I think it not modest to write. I look upon them not only as a sure Fund, but a fruitful Bank, that will in a fit season spring up with great increase, and agreeable to what was sown.

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Lastly, I cannot omit the mention of my Obligations to those Vestryes, that by their Contracts with me, and Orders in this Affair, gave me great Assistance, and were ready, if I had not met with most unreasonable opposition, to have espoused my Design, for the good of the Children of their respective Parishes, and had taken off the Charge and Burthen from me. And seeing every one in this City that knows the Prudence and the Sageness of those Vestry-meetings, will easily acquit me from the scandalous imputation of a Mad-man, for they have not such intercourse with such Mad-men; and therefore their Proceedings with me, I own with all Thankfulness, and offer them as Letters of commendation in my behalf.

Having now so great a Cloud of Assistance to encompass me, as I have in this Recount spread about me, I made greater and more resolved Steps, and first built upon new Foundations, never laid before; and though I will not undertake to justify all my Models, or excuse my self from Errours, yet in the general I design'd both Conveniency and Beauty, and somewhat I adjusted to the Pleasure, Divertisement, and Entertainment of those Honourable Ladies, whose compassionate Charity I had so great hopes from; that something of Delight might be tempered to so great Use and Publick Advantage; For so our merciful Creator and Preserver hath allowed, that the most solid, substantial, and massy goods, should have an Oyl, and Balsam swimming about them, that might take off from them their weight and pressiveness upon the Infirmities of Humane Nature; yea which, even in Innocency, was so prepared, that it required some aduancements of things to the pleasure of those Senses, with which it was created by the Original Goodness, something that might harmoniously concert them.

As these Hopes I have before explained grew greater, and my Progress had further and deeper engaged me, so my Attempts rose higher; For, upon the consideration of the expensiveness of Building, and that a particular Invention or Model seldom pleases the general Humour; but that every one is ready to interpose their censure and dislike, I had, both by the next
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neighbourhood of *Dorchester-House* to my first Plot for this Design, its strong and stately Edifice, its sharing in all the advantages of Scituation, Air, nearness to this Great City, pleasant Fields about it, conveniency for Gardening, and all such helps for cheaper and easier Provision, and above all, for the great penny-worth and easie price I found it purchasable upon, considering all these Advantages and Conveniencies, I laid a sure hold upon it, and made the Title of it so far my own, that if things had went smoothly on, according to my former laying of them into the Order before recited, I should have been enough able to have paid for it ; although at the first I was under a necessity, through my Settlement made out of my Estate to my Family, the Money expended upon the maintenance of poor Children, my Expences in such due acknowledgments to the Persons whose Right the Glory of all my Undertaking, under God, was to have been, and therefore that Homage, as I call it justly, due to them, and the Charges of the new Buildings I had erected ; through all these, I was, I freely own, under a necessity to borrow Money for the purchase of this so every way desirable a Pile for such a purpose.

And this was the state of things, truly and impartially laid before every Eye ; this was, I say, the state of things, to which I had advanced, when another Scene of things opened.

For now I have passed through the more pleasing and smooth part of my Relation, I must enter upon that more unpleasant, and unnatural to me ; for though I shall most cautiously avoid any unhandsome and undue Reflections upon any Person, much more of Publick Honour and Character, or particularly related to my self, by nearest Bonds of Nature and Affection ; yet when I am under a necessity of making an Account to the World how all my Hopes and Endeavours subsided, and my Expectations not only disappointed, but the whole Design torn in pieces, trodden down, ridiculed and exposed to scorn, my self disgraced and imprisoned, and all this for no Iniquity in my hand, nothing that was injurious to any Person, nor any otherwise than as just I have represented, but travailing in a
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Design of so great and common a Good. I cannot remonstrate these things, but I must touch the actions of other Persons, so far as may be grievous and offensive to them.

But that I may give Example of all Humility, Modesty, and of Obedience to those Laws of Christianity, that forbid evil Speaking, Clamour and Detraction; I shall give barely matter of Fact, and then, as things themselves, which cannot be deceived nor deceive, shall either Condemn me or others; I and they must submit, and they cannot blame me, if things Condemn them; for to so righteous a Judgement, all of what Character soever, how high, how great soever must submit.

Now this Part I shall present in so brief and naked a Relation, and though, as it concerns my self, it can deserve hardly the name of a Relation; yet, as it concern'd so publick a Good, I adventured to add some Reflection of the Honour of a Historian upon it: And I shall discharge that Duty with the greatest Faithfulness in all I say, and most especially, wherein there is a Temptation to aggravate beyond a Truth, the Sufferings and Oppressions I have undergone.

To enter into the clear and plain History of the Opposition, I found so prevailing against this Undertaking, I must dispose it into this Order; First, to consider the real inward springs of the Opposition, the Engines it wrought by; Thirdly, the force by which it executed it self in the Attainment of its ends, under which, both my Self and my Undertaking, at this time, lay suppressed.

For the first, I can with any satisfaction to my Reason, in the most charitable construction of things, find out no other springs of all that scorn, clamour, and violence, that have been made use of in this case against me, than these three things.

First, that sore Disease of Humane Nature, Envy, of which *Solomon* observes, *That for a right Work a man is envied of his Neighbour*. Many Persons, of whom I have reason to have very honourable Thoughts, yet whose secret Resistances to my Endeavours, I have found very secret, and yet brisk and effective, propogated an universal Disrespect and Disesteem among those
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that had no great affection to it, and that much cool'd and abated the Fervour and Life of those in it that had been either inclinable or friendly, and expos'd it to the lavish Tongues of of those that call them their own, who bore this Design up and down with scorn, and whereas it was known or spoke of, made it a subject of Laughter and Ridicule ; but what is there that Envy cannot misrepresent and find reason against ? A Passion, that as it must naturally rise from Hell, and so carries the subtilty and efficacy of that with it, and easily ferments, inflames, and even infuses its poyson into Humane Spirits, which by the Apostle *James's* Character, even lust to Envy, and so are too susceptible of the poyson ; and when Envy hath blasted any thing, it's easie for that general Levity of Mankind, and the delight it hath in turning all things to Mirth and Comedy, to fit all things to that pleasant Humour, and accordingly Burlesque them ; and this we all know, attempts to depretiate things of greatest Worth and highest Reverence.

But it may be asked, what possible Food was there for that black Passion to feed upon, that which deserved only the pity of wise men, the scorn and laughter of worser men, who could be tempted to envy it ? to see a Person sick of his own Fancy, swoln and tympaniz'd with Imaginations, and whimsy requires Compassion or Scorn, rather than moves Envy. Who would be envious at a Man that would build Hospitals with Wind ; as he can blow up bubbles with his breath ? This I cannot deny may be smartly enough retorted upon me, yet what is it that Envy cannot find something to feed upon, that prys into every corner, tortures every thing to find out its own Repast ? and even that little of any thing that hath but a colour of good, any Complexion of Virtue, or doing Good, it searches out and quarries upon.

That any one should but comprehend and fathom so great a Thought for Publick Good, as such an Hospital, that might or should awake every one in their Place to contribute to that, or do something like it, and the meaner the Person that hath but so much pretension as I have made offer of, the greater the En-

Envy, to undertake to present to so many Honourable and Charitable Personages, a mark to direct their Charity to, moves the dark affections of some ; that any one should presume to elicit the Graces of the Virtuous and Beneficent, and reproach the too general coldness, deafness and unactiveness of the most to a Duty so recommended, so awfully imprinted by that great lover of Mankind, the Author and Exemplar of Charity ; this was enough to imbitter and sour the Humours of others, who looked upon themselves as more deserving, more powerful, more wise for such an Action, and to have been the Leaders in it, taking away the Key of Charity, neither entering themselves nor suffering them that would ; and though they had no heart to it, yet because their Obligations might be truly greater, and the Duty more incumbent upon them, so that they ought to have been the Leaders, and so are ashamed to Follow, therefore have Indignation within themselves : And in all the Experiences of the World, we know (waving the matter we are upon wholly as if there had been no such thing) what monstrous Earth-quakes and violent Storms this Subterraneous Vapour hath raised in the World ; What great and worthy Achievements it hath either buried in Abortion, or torn in pieces, if come to any Maturity ; what wonder then is it, that so young an Infant, and Conception as this, and of so weak a Constitution, would be wracked, and at the very lanching out be sunk ?

All which laid together, may induce a Belief of what I have other Assurances of, by a continual Observation of what attended every Motion I made, and the notice I had of the Persons so ill affected, then I am willing to Communicate, and therefore in Modesty I withdraw from the Topique, when I have applied this Remark of *Solomon*, by way of addition, that such an evil Disease as frets the very Bones into Rottenness, (for Envy is the Rottenness of the Bones) cannot but exulcerate such Persons into all the Rancor and Keeness imaginable, and if Envy be so enraged, who, as the wisest of men said, can stand before it ?

Others, who knew they were to be attack'd with earnest solicitations to assist and contribute to such a Work, conceived a

Hatred to the occasion, and to cover their want of Mercy and Christian Charity, so artificially transported themselves against the Work, and the Projector of it; for Covetousness, which God abhorreth, of all Vices walks in the graveſt and moſt demure Habit; it conſtantly ſhews it ſelf abroad under the mantle of Prudence and Diſcretion, and ſagely Reasons againſt all the Inventions of Mercy and Liberality; it obſerves thoſe Clouds and thoſe Winds that look inauſpiciously, and threaten all Enterprizes of Mercy. And this not being enough, they inveigh againſt the Folly and Indiſcretion of thoſe that brood upon ſuch Deſigns, that they are a Company of half crack'd men, that do not wiſely conſider worldly Interests, and keeping what every one hath to themſelves, and not lavishing it out on Pious Uſes, and therefore deride them and their Projects, as our Saviour was derided by the Pharisees, who were covetous; and ſo ſeeing no one is willing to bear the ugly Imputation of Covetous, therefore they drive it as far from them as they can, by retorting all ſuſpicions of it upon ſenſeleſſneſs of Charity-Projectors, who run, ſay they, the common Fate of all Projectors, to live and dye Beggars. Now all this ſounding like Oracle to the men of the World, who praiſe only them that do well to themſelves; they huff off all thoſe Arguments of Chriſtianity for doing good, and mark the Ruine of thoſe that trouble the World with Works of that Character, and ſet them up as Pillars of caution to all others, not ſo to infeſt it; and how many Enemies of this ſort I and my Poor Undertaking have met with, there is a Day will diſcover.

I found yet the cloſer Gripes of ſome that had more particular Interest to run down this Attempt and the Author of it. Many Ancient Works of Charity and Magnificence have been greedily hungred and thirſted for by ſuch Cormorants, to enlarge their own Conveniencies, either to enlarge their own Bounds, or to clear the Air about them, that they may be plac'd as it were alone in the mid'ſt of the Earth; and ſuch a ſelf Interest lodg'd in the Hearts of thoſe that have Power in their Hands to do it, drives down all before it as a Tempeſt or Hurricane; ſo

so that it is not to be expected such green and uncemented Walls as these were could stand such a Shock, that Ancient Foundations of great Strength and ample Revenues have been torn up by.

Now the Engines by which the secret Springs moved and acted, were, I confess, most notably fitted to the Purposes, and though the secret Wheels were base and unworthy Principles, yet they were secret, and those which were visible and seen to play were plausible, and in themselves truly Rational, however ill applied, and though good in themselves, yet very unjustly and injuriously summon'd to serve against me ; As first, the Cares and Concernments of my own Family, and those near Relations of a Wife, a Son, and Daughters, were made use of. Now in and by these so near Relations, I was most sharply assaulted, and under these, the real ill Affections of my Adversaries stalk'd. These were made use of to remonstrate against all I did, and to turn that stream of Beneficence and Charity that was flowing in upon my Wheels. These were as *Mortmain* upon all Christian Liberality to me, as if the Hospital was to be built upon my Family's ruine. This and the other Great Person were supplicated to deny me any countenance or encouragement, to clasp up their Hands from giving, and seal up their Hearts from any commiseration on this account ; and whom would it not indeed have amazed, and made diffident of extending any thing towards this Work ? But besides all that I have already said to defend that Post against them, it is evident, That this very pretended Expedient, for the Interest of my Family, was the most effectual Battery against it, as it was Timed and Planted.

For when my Motion had proceeded so far, chiefly in my own strength, and upon the Trust and Security of all the Encouragements I have before displayed, to surprize my Motion in the very nick of time, when so many Bounties were coming in upon me, to my Aid and Assistance, and to turn back all those Contributions, what could be more effectual to destroy both me and my Family, and under a pretext of

keeping me from ruining them, to ruine me and them together ?

Or how was it possible more fatally to impose upon a mans Relations, and even infatuate them, than to time their Out-cries against me at that very moment, when I had all the reason in the World to expect, that those Contributions, if they had not been scar'd off by such Clamours, should have so seasonably incircled me, as that both I and my Family should be Buoy'd up together by them ? When the dividing those my Relations from me, to be saved by themselves, and that I was to be cast as it were overboard, like a *Jonas*, to preserve them, sunk us all ; and then those who had engaged themselves to come in to my Recovery, upon whom those Assistances were to center should be lost, here inevitably follow'd the shipwrack of us all ; as has most apparently fallen out : Whereas if they had rather borne me up above the waves, that I might have pleaded those Promises, and drawn in those Subsidiaries, we might in Gods gracious Providence have all been safe, and out of danger, and, as I may say, in Harbour.

They should therefore, when they could not hinder, but that things were gone so far without any considerable Contributions, have permitted those Reparations, that carrying on the main ends of Publick Good, had wasted me to Land also ; But that Great Intention being obstructed, and stranded, I my self, and all my Concerns were run aground also : and so my self and Family remain, till infinite Mercy shall bring us off, by the return of the Benignities assur'd to me in this Enterprize : Nor can I think, but that he who knows the innocency and sincerity of my purposes, will in his own time bring it to pass. Nor can I look upon so many humble Presents, that are yet in the Hands of so many Noble and Honourable Personages, but as daily repeated Assurances, They are ready to shed those Benign Influences, which Malignant Interpositions have thus long eclipsed and suspended ; and that they keep those Pledges of my humble ambition to be the Servant of their Charity, to be to me the Counterpart of their most Pious and charitable Resolution.

solutions, by which, not only the Publick Work shall be advanc'd, but my own tatter'd Concerns, that were brought into that condition by what I expended in that Publick Design, as it were for them, may be repair'd in some degree.

The second Engine by which they were so forcible against this so innocent and well intended Designation, was, that which may seem most just, and unavoidable, and to have nothing of Artifice, and yet was indeed the most perfect and undeniable Contrivance, when laid open ; and that was, the rallying what Debts they could against me, and screwing the Prosecution up to an Imprisonment of two years and a half, and then winding it still higher, to a Statute of Bankrupt, and to make my own Son the prime Actor in all this ; In which, though I shall, to avoid Reflection, keep my self close to matter of Fact, yet I must crave leave to anatomise the whole Proceeding.

When the Engineers against me had laid things thus together, *viz.* That such a part of my Estate I had divested my self of, in Settlements upon my Family, and especially my Son, of which, and the reasons of it, I have before given an account : That another part of my Estate I had imbarck'd in the Hospital ; One Proportion in the Charge I had actually undergone in the Maintenance of some Children ; another proportion in those Presents of Acknowledgement, which yet I would avoid the mention of, upon any other account, than the most necessary matter of Fact, or vindication of the Rationality of my Proceedings ; and another Proportion in the Buildings, and Purchase of *Dorchester-House*, which was a permanent, real Estate, and if Right might be done, as I hope by the concurrence of the former Favourers of this Undertaking, besides the accession of new ones by this humble Remonstrance, it will ; and where (I mean in *Dorchester House*, and the other Hospital Buildings) all the money I was indebted was deposited, with a considerable surplusage.

All these things being then laid together by sagacious and vigilant Adversaries, they came upon me with one consent, thus naked, unarm'd, unprovided, and for Money well secured, or
that

that was ready in my Sons hand (as some for which I am now a Prisoner was) in that very joynt, betwixt my money just out of my hand, and the expectation of its being refunded to me by those hoped Contributions, I was seized by Bailiffs, and thrown into Prison, where I have now lain so long, so great a Sufferer for this Pious, Charitable, and Publick Work, the knowledge of which will (I have great trust) move the Notice, Consideration, Compassion, and utmost Assistance of all Worthy Persons, especially those who are more particularly engaged.

And yet this would not master the grand Intendment of my Opposers, which was to the very Roots of the Design, and to Possess themselves of that stately Edifice for their own private Conveniencies, I had for my better Purposes secured; so that though I was in-wrapp'd in so many Actions, and lock'd up in a Prison, and though this imbargo'd all my Hospital Proceeding, yet there was still necessary to reach their dearer Ends, a Statute of Bankrupt to be taken out against me; and for this, to shew the unnaturalness of the Proceeding, my own Son, doubtless by strong perswasions, is made use of, and Instrumental in so great a Mischiefe to his own Father, and to no better Design than for a great Person to lay House to House, an End much dearer than the very Ruine of the Hospital, and more able to deserve that strong Opposition, and those terrible Contrasts with me.

Now upon the review of these Proceedings, it is very plain to observe with what an inclosure of all manner of Inconveniencies this Contrivance shut me in on every side.

For, First, it prostrated my Reputation, which, as is easily to be made known, was of so great necessity to me in the Promoting and Perfecting my Design; now these Methods they foresaw enough, would lay my Credit as low as even themselves could desire it; for if it was meer Inability and Insolvency, it would seem unreasonable to commit so great a Trust into so weak a Hand, and if there was Dishonesty to fasten upon, it was much more so, whereas it was indeed a Weakness, that did not arise from the ill or improvident mannage of my Affairs
through

through the course of so many Years full Trade, for that, in that I had a moderate Success through the Blessing of God, I have before made apparent; But first, in that Provision I had made for my Family, laid in before-hand against all Incertainties in this Adventure, and which, if I had not done, what I so parted from would have borne me above water in greatest probability till I had touched my End; and then that I had lay'd out my self to the very utmost in the Prosecution of my Purpose, were the true and only Causes of my Inability and Insolvency, and no other culpable Cause: and just in this very precise Article of my Inability, as a shot betwixt Wind and Water, these Contrivers against me seiz'd me with all the violence imaginable, like the evil Servant, who took his Brother by the throat; or indeed worse; like a Blood-thirsty Enemy, that waits for the Life, he hath marked out for Dispatch, watches the opportunity, when he sees the Person aim'd at, after some hard toyl or fatigue of action, lye without present breath or motion, and then encountering him, when he hath no Spirit left for resistance; whereas if they had begun with me, before, or respited me till the return of the Blood and Spirits into the right Channels and Affluence, as I make no doubt they would have done in a short time, by that Charity was flowing in upon me, in this lowest Ebb of my Concerns, they stranded me; if they had stay'd till the return of the Tyde, I had been upon equal Terms, and able to abide the Shock, and bore up against it.

But not only my Reputation was then endeavour'd to be ravish'd from me, but opportunity of Action, and Motions in my former Pursuits were confined, and the Action and Motion it self fetter'd; for as Imprisonment is reputed a Civil Death, so is it as to all vigorous Action and Motion in such a Design; all Applications to Persons from a Prison, being as little expected as from the Grave, and if made, presently forgotten, as those of a dead Man out of mind.

But much higher than all this, the Statute of Bankrupt, by a very strange Combination of Endeavours, and with very thin Appearances of those absolutely necessary Conditions to obtain
such

such a Statute, was obtained ; for I never absconded, I was never backward in any Payments, my Credit was as high as any Mans of my size or Circumstance ; To find a hundred Pound Debt against me, due to those that would charge it, was a difficulty, and raked together against me from more Persons than one. But now the Force and Service of this Battering-Ram against this whole Undertaking, is most Evident, for this is directed against the very Foundation ; my Right is as much transferred from me as it can be, leaving me only the Title of an Equitable and Conscientious Right, as durable as the very Earth it self upon which my Buildings stand, that no over-ruling arbitrary Course of Law, either through the greater knowledge of Laws, and all the niceties of it, or mightiness of Purse, or that plausible Name of my own Son, made so unnatural an Actor in it can take away.

To sum up now the Force and Violence with which all was executed. It fell like a storm upon all, that any Power in this World can lay hold upon, Reputation, Estate, Liberty, and through the many inconveniencies of a Prison, by Hardships, Cold Winters, ill Lodging, Life it self endangered, and, as far as these things can enter a Soul, they press into the Peace, Tranquility, and Religious composurè of that, filling the Mind with distracting Thoughts, Discontent, Complaints against Providence, deep Melancholy, and almost Despair ; although by the Grace of God I have been more than Conquerour, and held my ground.

And now by all this that hath gone before, I have but made way to my chief End in this short Relation, and that is, by first removing the Prejudices, Aspersions, and Disrepute cast upon this whole Matter.

I am now come to the last, but principal part, of this my Historical Vindication, and to which all the rest are leading and preparatory : And therefore, as it requires my deepest and most Intense Thoughts and Consideration, so it most humbly and earnestly begs the closest Attendance, as in which all the hopes of returning this lost, and reviving this languishing Undertaking are deposited.

For

For though indeed my most confiding Sanctuary be the Charity, Christianity, Generosity and Compassion, of all that have been favourable to me, or that shall be yet invited to be so; yet the supports of Reason, as they are most necessary to vindicate my Zeal and affectionate Pursuits, so to give Motion and Acquiescence to that Christian Charity and Compassion; for who would be perswaded to contribute to build an Hospital in the Air, as this hath been often charg'd to be? I therefore now address my self to the close Argumentative Part, and to make good such Positions as will, I doubt not, have Influence upon truly Rational Christian Spirits, and that they may be as Words upon their Wheels, digest them into the best Order I can; and I hope they will move with such Effect, as to lift up and restore this Undertaking upon its first wheels of Motion, and better guided through the Favour of those Christian Chariteers, who, as *Aminadab*, (whose Name signifies, as the Learned have told me, *viz. My Munificent People*) will better govern both the Reins and Incentives of Motion.

The first Position I would make good, is, that the Design it self was unquestionable in it self according to the Laws of God. For two things I acknowledge ought to be the Rule and Measure of a Publick Christian Charitable Work.

First, That the End be no point of dark, intricate, perplex'd, superstitious Opinion, and that it be in its just proportion, and balanc'd to the necessity of the Occasion. Now that the Education of Child-hood, to after Usefulness and Employment, is one of the most unquestionable and uncontestable Ends for the Glory of God, who loves the Peace and good Government of that part of the World, especially, who make Profession of his Name, and of the Excellent Religion of *Jesus*, is without controversie or suspicion most apparent.

Secondly, That the Occasion is not sufficiently provided for and satisfied, is evident by the too great Numbers of uneducated Children: For although this City have some very Noble and Famous Nurseries to this purpose, as that never enough Renowned Hospital of *Christ-Church*, and others, yet they are

not so properly elevated for the Latitude of the daily increasing Suburbs, to the West of this Great City, where the Confluence of Nobility, the Royal Court, as the Center the Lines draws Multitudes of Families to wait upon them for Service and Trade, and therefore, according to the Magnificency of such Princely, and also Christian Hero's and Heroesses, they may be presumed to take care of dispelling the Vapours of an Unbred Multitude of Youth, in imitation of the Sun and Stars, whose Beams, as they cannot but exhale from the Earth into the Air, so are they prepared by God to be the Salutary Princes of the natural Air, that carry Healing in their Beams, which are as Wings over the World, they defecate and purifie those Vapours they exhale, so are the Nobility and Gentry under and near the Prince himself, by their Charity and Virtue to sublimate the lower part of Mankind, and morally refine them, which in greatest numbers gather about them. Now no Purification is of that Efficacy, as vertuous Education of the Rising Generations of Mankind, which if good and virtuous, both surprizes the Enormities of Youth, and restrains them, which are else not only vanity but froward, strange and full of Folly, upon *Solomon's* Observation: This so shapes and forms it, that the After-World that is renewed from that Youth and Child-hood, is virtuous also; for Children will not depart from that good way when they are Old, that they have been trained up in, whilst Children, (by the same wisest *Solomon's* Observation) that else would multiply into a World of Vice. What therefore, like this Charity, can be a more general Good that discharges the Air of Conversation from such impure Fogs of the Atmosphere, and clarifies it into the most wholesome Effluvioms.

The second thing that I affirm, is, that if this Work can come under a Publick Account of Glory and Service to God, and to the Souls and Bodies of Men; That Work then so designed hath a Dedication to God, and whatsoever is so dedicated to him, cannot be taken from him without Sacrilege; for that Sacrilege is a Sin worn out in the days of Gospel, is evidenced by all Learned and Pious Divines, to be a very great and
perni-

nicious Mistake ; there are still Dedications and Devotings of Persons, and Things to God for Pious and Charitable Uses, as being founded upon an eternal and uncharitable Right and Equity, and the taking away of these by Fraud and Violence, and converting them to other Uses, must be Sacrilege, and cannot be other, while the notion of Dedication to God stands good.

And therefore it does, and must remain a Charge of that high Nature, wherein soever Injury is committed upon what is so Dedicated to him, as to fall under the black Brand of Robbing God.

I know it would be vain to claim this Impress of Divine Right for all things that have mistaken the grand mark of all such Dedications, and either intitled That, that is due only to God, to Names below him, or intitled that to him, that is to Uses very distant from God or his Approbation ; nor do I think things can be ty'd or engag'd to God, beyond the Proportion of his own Sanction and Acceptance, as to write Corban upon what is necessary to Childrens Maintainance and support of Parents, when themselves have it, and their Parents are fall'n into Indigency, or on Parents Care of their Families, and Provision for that ; for this is superstitiously to Reject the Commands of God for our own Will-Worship, much less can I think that God receives Robbery for Sacrifice, but hates it ; all which I shall farther presently Remark upon, as to my own particular ; and therefore what I Argue can't affect Lands or Houses that have been heretofore misdevoted, or have been aright devoted, but above all the just proportion the Civil Community can bear. For it is not the present case, which is free from all scruples, arising from wrong and mistaken Dedications and Uses, or being out of Proportion ; the Use and End will be by all allow'd, and the Proportion according to every ones free Beneficence, which is a just proportion.

For seeing God is the Paramount Lord of all, it can never but be just to honour him with our Substance, and the first-fruits of all our Increase ; and seeing he hath declar'd in what way he

will be so honour'd, either in his immediate Service, and the Supports of that, either in Persons, or Things necessary to it, and to the Poor; and seeing the Religion of the Gospel is not chargeable, as to Things, as heretofore among the *Jews*, it is most reasonable there should be a redundance and exuberance of it in relation to the Persons that minister to him in the Gospel, or to the uses of Piety, or to the Poor; amongst which, the Religious and useful Education of poor Children is without controverſie a Principal.

From all which it follows, which would be greatly advancing to this Enterprize; That those several Classes I nam'd in the beginning, cannot but under the most solemn and real Obligations, stand so obliged to all the Promises they were pleas'd freely to make, that they are by no means to be recalled in whole, or defalk'd in part, seeing the unfaithfulness of *Ananias* and *Saphira*, in any of our Assignations to the Honour of our God, as it is most to be detested, so not once to be suspected of such excellent Persons.

2. I conclude that those who have given their Approbation and Encouragement, cannot be suppos'd to mean a cheap and cold Approbation, and Recommendation to others, seeing they had to do with God, and in a great Point, and in instances of their own Duty, but that they will warmly, effectively, and exemplarily concur, as with their Influences, so with their Contributions, being Persons of Conscience, Honour, and Ability.

3. That those Honourable Persons, who have been pleas'd to accept Presents from a Person not able (he acknowledges to them) to make them, but as they were, as he hath said, humble acknowledgments on his part, that he was but a Petitioner for their Contributions, of that to which they were wholly to be intitled; and on their part, it was a Pledge of their Acceptance of the Petition he made to them; and he is humbly bold to say, an indenting with him, as such an humble Petitioner; That the
 ** Service, so long as they pleas'd, should be his, the Assistance
 Theirs, and the Glory Gods, in a real Act of Charity and Mercy to so great a Use; and therefore the Obligation was transferr'd from any respect to him, and became an Obligation to God.

4. That

4. That those Vestrys contractings with me, were not only Effects of their Care and Providence for their Parish Children, but an Offer of their Service and Assistance to so great an End, as a perpetual Settlement for the Education and Good of so many Parish Children, which might receive daily additions, and that might, as it should please God to incline the Piety and Charity, enlarge it self farther and farther, and therefore they were obliged above the meer Providence for their Parish-Children to this Solemn Direction of things to the Glory of God, and a Concurrence in so good a Work.

5. I am very confidently, but humbly Positive, that They, unto whose Hands the Buildings and small Possessions, so devoted to such a Pious and Excellent a Purpose, and therein to God, are alienated, are under very severe Interdicts of Reason, Religion, and the Judgment of all that are Devout and Sober, besides their particular promises, to detain them upon the offer of what is but most equitable (and not rigidly) due Compensation for what they laid down upon any Parts of them; all such Addition, either to the Substance or Conveniencies and Beauty of their Mansions, are of far greater suspicion to eat into the Bowels, and twine about the Foundations of their ample Estates, and otherwise sufficiently Beautiful Buildings, and ruine all. For if so uneasie and restless flittings of Church Lands have been observed, where the Divine Interests in that hath no such apparent Evidences, as in this Undertaking; how much more it is to be feared in this Case? And although I know men are more affraid of any attacks from Humane Laws or Powers, than of the Divine Justice, yet the thing is not the less Dreadful; the Motions indeed are slower and more Insensible, but more sure, more lasting, and therefore much more to be dreaded.

And although I know it is not safe to Comment upon the Judgments of God, and such Interpretations may mis and strain the Text they are exercitated upon, yet I can give several Instances of very strange and unusual Providences towards some, who have not seriously enough, or with due speed discharged their Obligations in this Case, as also very sad Providences upon
others

others that have been great Enemies and Opposers, whose Names, as having been under Divine or Humane Justice, it is a Reverence or kind of Religion not to touch, unless on great Reasons: But I may be bold to make publick the so very awful strokes of God upon my Family, and particularly upon my Son, (of whose Innocency I have yet greatest hopes, having always given him strict Rules, and a constant Example of Loyalty) yet I cannot but own the Hand of God upon him in exposing him to the danger he is now under, and the more, because he hath made himself so much separate from me, as a Father, and the Father of the Family, as to be prevail'd with for the Statute of Banckrupt, and in which separation from me, this Judgment hath fall'n upon him, and so far involv'd the other parts of my Family within the skirts of it, though I acknowledge the Goodness of God, and the Clemency of his Majesty in the Courts of Judicature under him towards it, which my presence with them, I have reason to think, knowing my great Sense of Subjection to Government had secured against.

The great Objections I can conceive against this Argumentative part of this Discourse, will lye in two things.

I have indeed vindicated my self from my Inability, seeing, as
 ** I have represented my self, I stand, as a perfect Cypher in this whole Undertaking, as to any more than the first Motioner and Petitioner for so Great and Charitable a Work, which may very much remove Envy its usual aliment, that canine Appetite, it hath upon any pretension to Great, Prosperous, or Happy, or being able for any Great Undertaking; being generally slack'd with the Allowance, there is no such thing so much as pretended, but yet still there may remain an indignatory Disdain: An inconsiderable Person, of so small pretence, should take upon him to be the first mover in so bulky an Undertaking: to which I take the boldness to Answer these Two Things.

First, That many things that are brought in to make me so Inconsiderable, are come upon me in standing in the very breach of the Waters of this difficulty, and present violence of Expence in this Undertaking, trebled and increased by the Oppositions I encountred, which have run me down, and the continual Artifices

rifices against me ; among which, my Imprisonment, and that Statute of Bankrupt may stand in the Fore-front, in which, if it were not a rudeness to load such an intention as I have in this Address with Charges against any one, I am able to detect, and plainly expose so many Arts, Sollicitations of Persons to take the advantage of imprisoning, of disabling me to any Legal Acts, of wrenching my Power out of my hand, to make those Acts Legal upon my Estate done by another against my will, and to gild the whole with the gloss of my own Son as the Principal Actor, as it were in preservation of himself and my Family ; as would make it most apparent, it was not the bare Obstruction of the Hospital, or the good of my Family, but some other ill Influence, that hath involv'd my self and Family in all these hardships, and that if I had not been forcibly divided from all those assurances of Assistance, and re-imbursement of what I had expended upon Building, upon the Children, and the Presents of a very considerable Value, although I am very unwilling to name them, at so many hundred Pounds as would rise to a Ten of Hundreds, and which I account as so much real Estate, and as good as in my Hand ; and then what I first secur'd for my Son and Family ; let this be laid all together, and without any great Imputation of Immodesty, or just Disdain, a Man of six thousand Pound Estate, may be a Petitioner for a Publick Charity ; and in some Cases, the smallest Persons have been used by Divine Providence to very Great Ends, nor is it distant from their Duty to attempt what they can ; for, as in Nature, things that have the lowest situation by Natures Law, yet rise to the greatest height upon Vacuity ; so the Observation of a great want of such a Provision for the Education of the Children of so many great Parishes, of one of which I am a Member, and no Person of greater Account appearing in it, It gave me an Authority, the Thing being so deeply impressed upon me, to rise even out of my Sphere in the Attempt. And though I am far from Enthusiasm, yet when Rational and Christian Impressions are set home upon a Man, grounded upon strong Apprehensions, of the Goodness of a Thing, and guided by the Rational and possible Methods of Attainment, it may in some degree warrant a naked *Saul* among the Prophets, and a *David* Encountering a *Goliath*, that I may make so bold an Allusion, without the least thought of making a Parallel, and Children in Wisdom and Power to speak what else stones would, if they should hold their Peace, and that I have not vainly shewn so great a Resentment, appears by constant Resolution and Suffering, without Wavering or Impatience, one Evidence of Divine Assistance and Approbation.

The second Cavil or Objection hath been at the Title (*The Ladies Hospital*)

Hospital) with which some made themselves much scandaliz'd. But an answer to that needs not much, I am so far from esteeming it a Derogation, or from recanting the Title, that I count it a glory to the Undertaking.

When I consider how many Great and Excellent Persons of that Character have been famous in Scripture, the number of which is so great I cannot now recount. Nor is the Scripture ashamed to grace that Title with that most excellent Epistle, superscrib'd to the Elect Lady, by the beloved Disciple: an everlasting Monument of Glory both to the Sex, and to the Title. And then it is not to be suppos'd, that the Intitling the *Hospital* to the Ladies, was any exclusion of their Noble Lords and Husbands; For according to that great *Encomium* of the vertuous Lady by *Solomon*, the wisest of Princes, and men, and the Prince of Poets, Son to the *sweet Singer of Israel*, the Hearts of their Husbands safely trust in them, *They consider a Field*, and so a Mansion for Charity, and purchase it; and their glory, as they are the glory of the Man, redounds on their Noble Lords and Husbands.

Having now finish'd my whole History, and Vindication, I sum up all, and beseech all those Noble Persons to whom I present this, in the Bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Lover of Humane Nature, of the Bodies and Souls of Men, of his particular Love to Children and younger years; by the great tenderness due to them, in Example of our Lord, by the necessary Mercy to Ope, that hath by his Utmost doing and suffering (except unto Blood) seal'd the sincerity of his Intentions in desire of the Glory of God, of the Honour of so many Illustrious Persons, I may prevail, that by This, or the like Method, you would favour the Stones, pity the Dust (I will call it) of your *Hospital*.

1. That those most Reverend Fathers in God, the Bishops, and the Reverend the Deans and Doctors, would please to review their Recommendations of it. And, which would make easie the whole Design,

2. That the Worshipful Justices and the Vestrys would again espouse it, according to their former Contracts, of allowing six pound a year for each Child.

3. That those Honourable Personages, that have either by their Promises, Recommendations, or acceptance of my humblest Presents, approved my Design, would please to make effective Contributions, that may be paid in to any of the Doctors of the Parishes, or otherwise, as may be thought best.

4. That by their Examples, and invitations of others, the number of Contributors may increase, and be added to those who have engag'd.

5. That by the Union of Contributions the Buildings may be view'd, repair'd, and rescu'd from Ruine and Alienation, by a Commitment of that Care to Persons fit for it; and your Petitioner allow'd to continue a Petitioner for it, as long as you please.

F I N I S.